AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace original paragraph [0043] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0043] Statistical benefits of the invention will now be discussed with respect to a prototype implementation of the invention. This prototype was implemented on a simulated IP phone application. FIG. 4 shows the setting and the components of the implementation. It includes two IP soft phones 42, and 44 and one router 46, all of which ran on Linux machines. A well-known, freeware software "NISTnet" (~~available at the website address http://snad.ncsl.nist.gov/nistnet, and~~ incorporated herein by reference) is installed on the router 46 to emulate network failure and QoS (delay, loss, jitter) impairments. The sender of the application was modified to insert RTCP packets during silence periods, and the receiver was modified to wait for additional RTCP packets during silence periods. A new component, detector and notifier, was added to the application at each phone location to decide when failure occurs and to signal the failure to the user. The various components were synchronized so that accurate measurements could be made of the detection times.